2: Damm et al. --117 (1909) 1938 Woleaians
144 Aurupik

The coiffure reminded Miklucho-Maclay of the natives of the islands southeast of Ceram; he concludes that there must be a mixture of Papuan blood on Aurepik.

2: Damm et al. --158
116, 144

(1909) 1938

Woleaians
Faraulep

No physical anthropological surveys were made. According to Sievers, the population is similar to that of Feis and Mogomog.

4: Krämer--185 (1909) 1937 Woleaians
116, 144 Woleai

The natives of Oleai according to their physique, dress, language, and customs belong to the Central Carolinians and are closely related to the inhabitants of Truk, Ululssi, Lamutrik, Sátowal, Sorol and other islands.

4: Krämer--201 (1909) 1937 Woleaians
116, 144 Woleai

In a treatment of the population of Oleai we must bear in mind that it is greatly mixed due to the migrations of the natives of the surrounding islands. The settlement charts show that we may hardly talk of a true local type.

4: Krämer--201 (1909) 1937 Woleaians
116, 157, 144 Woleai

In general it must be stressed that the natives of Uleai are charming, a fact which has been observed by previous visitors and which is most true of the women. The photographs are well able to prove this point. An English half-breed (photograph 18c) [VMM: see source], as on Lamotrek, proves British dominance.

10: Miklucho-Maklai --295 (1876-1877) 1877 Woleaians
116, 144 Aurupik

Their [MR: the Eauripik natives] appearance reminded me of the natives of the islands southeast of Ceram and the Kei Archipelago. In both instances I am doubtful whether we are dealing with natives who have some Papua blood.

11: Born--177 (1903) 1904 Woleaians
144 Woleai

In physical structure, dress, language, and customs, the Oleaï natives belong to the Central Carolinians. They are closely related to the natives of Truk, Ululssi, Lamutrik, Satuwal, Sorol, Sonsol, Atogui, and Merir.

28: Spiro--5
116, 144, 174

(1947-48) 1949*

Woleaians
Ifalik

"The Ifaluk are members of the so-called Micronesian race, which is closely related to the Polynesian. Their features definitely bespeak a racial admixture, but whether this contact was in historic or prehistoric times is still a moot point."

41: Bates & Abbott N-5 (1953) 1958
OR21 Woleai OR21
Ifaluk

five chief) weighed 182 pounds with a height of 5′ 7½″. Wolpaitig came closest of any man on the island to having a paunch.

The women were considerably more under American averages for height or weight. They were generally only an inch or so over or under five feet, weighing not much over a hundred pounds. The heaviest, a matron named Ietili of the Garotrong household, weighed 150 pounds, and was 5′ 1½″ tall. Ted suspected that the small size and light weight of the women was a consequence of the fact that they carried out the regular toil of the island—the heavy gardening work of the taro swamps as well as the work around the houses.

The Ifalukians would be classed as Micronesians: but what that means is anybody's guess. "Micronesia" is a geographical term to cover the hundreds of "tiny islands" of the Marianas, the Carolines, the Marshalls and the Gilberts. The inhabitants of these island groups, the Micronesians, are hardly to be distinguished from the more famous Polynesians: a rapid survey of several anthropology texts shows that the two are more often classed together than not. The inhabitants of the various island groups of Micronesia are certainly more diverse, both culturally and physically, than the inhabitants of Polynesia: but the similarities among all of these light-skinned people of the Pacific are greater than their differences. And the problem of the origin and history of the Ifalukians, of the Caroline Islanders, of the Micronesians, cannot be separated from the much-discussed problem of the origin of the Polynesians.

I think part of the European fascination with Polynesia (which would apply equally to the people of the central Carolines) comes from the fact that these people look very much like ourselves. The features of the Ifalukians were very European, and I amused myself by noting resemblances in certain individuals, in features or apparent characters, to particular friends or acquaintances in the States. The people were not really dark-skinned: both Don and I acquired a skin color within a month that matched the Ifalukian average, as determined by frequent comparisons of arms placed side by side. A pair of naked legs walking by the Fan Nap, observed under the low over-hang of thatch, could not be identified as Ifalukian or American. The Ifalukians

41: Bates & Abbott N-5 (1953) 1958
OR21 Woleai OR21
Ifaluk

were surely as mixed up racially as the Europeans (none of us can afford to be stuffy about purity of race) but the mixture in the Ifalukians must have contained some of the same elements as the European mixture. But how did they get so far away?

Most anthropologists believe that the Pacific islanders moved out from southeast Asia, perhaps around the beginning of the Christian era, when the inhabitants of southeast Asia may have had a larger "Caucasian" component in their racial mixture than now. Despite his daring feat with the Kon-Tiki, few experts have much faith in Thor Heyerdahl's theory of American origin: he certainly proved that cross-Pacific contact is possible, but the evidence of language, culture and race points overwhelmingly to a Malayasian origin. One of the more probable migration routes for the Polynesians is from southeast Asia to the Philippines and through the Caroline islands to the central and south Pacific.

One gets the feeling, in this Polynesian-Micronesian area, of dealing with cultures far more complex than the technology would indicate: of dealing with the remnants of a high culture, of a "civilization." One feels that these same people, with the resources of a continent, could have built Angkor Vat or Copan: and they did produce some spectacular carving and building in places like Ponape and Easter Island. It is easy to understand the lure of the search for some "lost civilization" to account for these cultures; to understand the desire to create a mid-Pacific "continent of Mu" after the fashion of Atlantis. Maybe there is a general human tendency to explain the fascinating with the fabulous. Certainly the Pacific islanders are fascinating enough; but they have given us very few clear clues to either their origin or their history, and the few clues that we have are in part conflicting. Probably we shall never arrive at a clear and unequivocal reconstruction of their past.

But we were absorbed with the Present on Ifaluk. We had not yet acquired a proper Ifalukian shade of brown when we finally managed to finish our census of the people: but even with our strange color, we had already begun to feel at home, to feel "Micronesian" ourselves, a part of the island.